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VB

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/202,047	12/07/98	ITOH	K 20-4491P

002292 HM22/0920
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EXAMINER	
HELMS, L	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1642 9

DATE MAILED: 09/20/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/202,047	Applicant(s) Itoh et al
Examiner Larry R. Helms Ph.D.	Group Art Unit 1642

Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle 1035 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire NONE month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

Claim(s) 1-15 _____ is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims 1-15 _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

-- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES --

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, claims 6-9 and 12-13 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. In view of applicant's response in paper #8 that the previous Restriction Requirement was irrelevant to PCT practice, the Restriction Requirement set forth in paper # 8 has been vacated. A Restriction Requirement according to PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 follows:
2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

To have a general inventive concept under PCT rule 13.1, the inventions need to be linked by a special technical feature. The special technical feature recited in claim 1 is a DNA encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a variant protein thereof in which one or more amino acid residues are substituted, deleted, or added wherein said variant binds to MHC class I antigen and which can be recognized by T cells. Claim 1 is broadly interpreted to mean any protein (SEQ ID NO:2 with more than one substitution, deletion or added residues) that binds MHC class I antigen and which can be recognized by T cells. In view of this interpretation, Boon et al (J. Exp. Med 183:725-129, 3/96) reads on the claim. Boon et al teach the MAGE protein which is recognized by T cells and can bind to MHC class I antigen.

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Therefore the technical feature recited in claim 1 is not special. Accordingly the groups are not so linked as to form a single general concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-5 and 11, drawn to DNA encoding a protein, expression plasmid, and transformants.

Group II, claim(s) 6-9 and 12-13, drawn to tumor antigen protein/peptide.

Group III, claim(s) 10 and 14-15, drawn to an antibody.

3. The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding technical features for the following reasons: As set forth above, in view of the teaching of Boon et al and the interpretation of claim 1, the groups are not so linked as to form a single general concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because the technical feature of claim 1 is not special.

Inventions of Groups I-III represent separate and distinct products which are made by materially different methods, and are used in materially different methods which have different modes of operation, different functions and different effects. The polynucleic acid of Group I, the protein product of Group II and the antibody of Group III are all structurally and chemically different from each other. The polynucleotide is made by nucleic acid synthesis, while the polypeptide is made by translation of mRNA and the antibody is raised by immunization. Furthermore, the polynucleotide can be used for hybridization screening, the polypeptide can be

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used for methods of treatment, the antibody can be used to immunopurify the polypeptide, for example. The examination of all groups would require different searches in the U.S. Patent shoes and the scientific literature and would require the consideration of different patentability issues. Thus the inventions I-III are patentably distinct.

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter and different searches in the patent literature, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larry R. Helms, Ph.D, whose telephone number is (703) 306-5879. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, with alternate Fridays off. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, can be reached on (703) 308-3995. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

6. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located In Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published In the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center telephone number is (703) 305-7401.

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Respectfully,

Larry R. Helms Ph.D.



JULIE BURKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER